Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [0070] with the following amended paragraph:

[0070] The polymer prepared in Example 2 was equilibrated in 0.05 M MES-buffer (11 mL) at a pH of 6.8 for 40 minutes in glass petri dish. Hyaluronic acid (HA) (10 mg) was treated with 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminop- ropyl)-carbodiimide[[)]](EDC) (10 mg) and hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBT) (12 mg) in 0.05 M MEH-buffer (11 mL) at a pH of 4.8 for 2 hours in glass vial. (Ratio of EDC:HOBt:HA=1:1.2:1). The HA solution was added to the base polymer coating in glass petri dish and reacted overnight after which the polymer coating was washed 3 times for 24 hours with distilled water and dried overnight.

Please replace paragraph [0071] with the following amended paragraph:

[0071] The peptide GGGRGDGGG which is made either by New England Peptide Co., Gardner Mass. or Biopeptide Co., LLC, San Diego, Calif. is dissolved in a water-miscible solvent. The peptide solution is then dissolved in conjugation buffer (0.1 M MES buffer at pH of 4.7 2-20 mg per 2 mL) and is added to the polymer prepared in Example 3. Conjugation buffer (0.5 mL) is added to EDC and [[to]] the EDC solution is added to the above reaction mixture (EDC to peptide ratio=1:1). The reaction mixture is shaken gently for three hours and the EDC solution removed. The polymer product is washed with distilled water three times.

Please replace paragraph [0073] with the following amended paragraph:

[0073] Standards disaccharides (lyophilized powder) were reconstituted in ultra pure water at a concentration according to manufacturer directions and each standard was divided into five aliquots. The aliquots were frozen at -80°C for 20 minutes and then lyophilized. The first aliquot was left at -80°C to be directly lyophilized. The second aliquot was resuspended in 17.5 mM mercuric acetate and 50 mM sodium acetate (pH 5.0) and incubated for 30 minutes at room temperature. Then 30 [[°C]] µL of 50% AG 50W-X8 resin slurry was added to remove mercuric acetate and the solution was filtered through glass wool, frozen at -80° C for 20 minutes and then lyophilized. The last three aliquots were resuspended in 100 µL of 0.0005% phenol red and 100 mM sodium acetate (pH 7.0). Then, 1.6 µL chondro-4-sulfatase (100 mU/mL) was added and the mixture was incubated at 37° C for one hour,

frozen at -80° C for 20 minutes and then lyophilized. Then 20 µL of 100 mM ammonium acetate (pH 7.0) was added to each aliquot and followed by vortexing and spinning. The samples were stored at -80° C until used.